Appomattox Oil Company

McDearmon recalls company's start

It all began in an old Round House, made of a discarded Appomattox tank in the year 1932.

"Yes sir," commented C. Lewis McDearmon, Sr., of the Appomattox Oil Company, Inc. "I remember that old Round House very well; you know, it was called just that, Round House Service Station. I sold Texaco gasoline for 15 or 20 cents a gallon. Texaco and I go a long way back."

When Clarence Lewis McDearmon, Sr. found out there was a good living in selling gasoline and things were going so well in the old Round House, he decided to build a station in the heart of downtown Appomattox. It was located just above where the school board office is now situated.

"The new station was called Main Street Station," said McDearmon, "but I kept them both going for a while."

After a time, McDearmon saw the need for further expansion so he tore down the Main Street station and opened wholesale oil business.

"I bought my first oil truck from Warren Falwell, Jerry Falwell's father," said Lewis.

McDearmon who knows and is known by just about everybody in the vicinity of Appomattox, was born in Evergreen in 1906. His father, the late Clarence S. McDearmon was the railroad agent in Evergreen.

His education began in a one room school in Evergreen, continued in the elementary school in Appomattox. At about age 13, he entered the Randolph Macon Academy in Bedford.

Lewis entered Hampden Sydney College and was a good student for a year and then he decided that the working world was the place for him.

His first job was with the Farmers National Bank; next he went to work in the Appomattox Post Office for the late A.R. Harwood who was postmaster.

"Eddie Dinwiddie and Ernest Cole were running the post office," laughed Lewis, remembering, "and I had to go over and show them how to do things."

"The post office didn't pay me; Mr. Harwood did. Mr. Dinwiddie made $125.00 a month, Mr. Cole made $100.00 a month and I was making $30.00 and I was showing them how!" laughed McDearmon.

"I worked for the Norfolk and Western Railway, relief work for agents and operators. Then I began working for the RR regularly as a cashier in Hopewell for $165.00 a month," he added.

McDearmon was first married to the late Willie Guthrie Anderson and they had two children, Lewis Jr. who is a partner in the business and Mary Anna M. Lair who is a teacher. His present wife is the former Alice Harris.

Appomattox Oil Company is located on Commerce Street in a building that McDearmon bought from VEPCO. It was originally owned by Appomattox Light Company.

It was in 1964 that Lewis McDearmon Jr., a graduate of VPI/SU and a former teacher decided to leave the field of education and come into the business with his father as a partner.

Appomattox Oil Company has been distributor for Texaco products for fifty years here in Appomattox; gasoline, home heating oils, industrial oils, greases and lubricants. They also handle tires, batteries, and accessories.

It takes good workers to keep a good business going and the Appomattox Oil Company is fortunate. In the office are Carolyn Smith and Anne Wells. Drivers and helpers include Richard Wilson, Russell Franklin, Tommy Fleshman, Ronald Hash and Charlie Abbitt.

Texaco, and The Appomattox Oil Company, a good team for fifty years in Appomattox and still going strong!

Mac's opened here back in '78

Mac's Lawn and Garden Equipment Center, located at 11 Commerce Street, Appomattox, opened for business in September of 1978. C. Lewis McDearmon Jr. is owner and operator.

McDearmon, who worked out of his home in the very beginning, said, "I started out with the Wheelhorse dealership with the intention of someday opening a complete outdoor power center. We now carry the Wheelhorse line of lawn and garden tractors and attachments."

In addition to Wheelhorse, the center stocks Husqvarna Power Saws.

"Lewbo", as McDearmon is known to his fellow workers, was educated in the public schools of Appomattox County. He is a graduate of VPI/SU and taught for a time in the Augusta School System before returning to Tech to work on his Master's Degree. While getting his Master's he held a teaching position at Tech and upon completion of his graduate work he accepted a teaching position in the Campbell County School system.

McDearmon left the field of education in 1964 to join his father, C. Lewis McDearmon, Sr. as a partner in the Appomattox Oil Company.

He is married to the former Cheryl Brooks and they are the parents of four children.

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Family business offers fine printing

The Times - Virginian Printing Corporation was formed in May of 1975, when J. Franlin Vaughan purchased the printing operation of the Times-Virginian newspaper.

Franklin and his brother, W. Lloyd Vaughan, had been partners in the business before Franklin purchased the printing business.

The printing company is a family business, with Franklin serving as president of the corporation, his son, Joe serving as vice president, and his wife, Joyce, serving as secretary-treasurer.

"We do all sorts of printing, from church bulletins and general office forms, to paperback books," notes Franklin. A wide variety of two-color printing is also done on the modern press facilities, located at No. 2 Main Street, Appomattox.

The printing company, which is a member of the Printing Industries of the Virginias professional printers' organization, has received a variety of awards for printing excellence from the PIV.

Joe Vaughan, who is a professional photographer as well as a printer, does the camera work for the company. He attended a graphic arts school in Rochester, N.Y., after graduation from Appomattox High School. Along with the camera work, Joe handles the layout, line art, and other graphic phases of the printing operation. He is married to the former Kathy Mitchell. Joe and Kathy have one son, Brandon Scott, and live at Spout Spring.

Franklin is very active in Appomattox County. He is a member of the Appomattox County Board of Supervisors, and served as chairman of the county's governing board in 1982.

He is also vice chairman of the Central Virginia Planning District Commission, and has served as secretary and treasurer of that organization.

In addition, Vaughan is a member and past president of the Appomattox Lions Club, a member and past president of the Spout Spring Ruritan Club, a member of the Appomattox County Chamber of Commerce, and a deacon of Liberty Baptist Church in Appomattox.

Franklin's wife, Joyce, is a music teacher and serves as the organist at Liberty Baptist Chruch, in addition to her duties as secretary-treasurer of the Times-Virginian Printing Corporation.

The Vaughans have enjoyed growth in their printing company since the corporation was formed in 1975.

"We currently have customers ranging from Norfolk and other points in the Tidewater area of Virignia, to the West Virginia line, and into Tennessee and North Carolina, as well," Franklin notes.

He adds the local company also does considerable business in Lynchburg, and "we service Charlotte and Buckingham Counties on a regular basis, and do some business in Prince Edward, as well."

Ably handing the printing needs of the company's customers, in addition to Franklin, Joe and Joyce, are Agnes Reynolds, receptionist and secretary; Sandra McIntosh, typesetter; Barry Maxey, pressman; Kevin Mitchell, pressman; and Louise Barger, sales representative.

Vaughan notes that one of the activities which he and his employees particularly enjoy is showing school students how commercial printing is done.

"Our doors are always open to school groups and others who want to see how the typesetting and the actual printing is done," notes Franklin. "We specialize in printing school papers," he adds. The staff of the **Raider Report**, the award-winning Appomattox County High School student newspaper, recently visited the printing company's office to see how their product is assembled and produced.

In summarizing his approach to the printing business, Franklin points out that "our ultimate goal in printing is to satisfy our customers. If we don't satisfy them, then we don't expect payment. Our motto is, 'Satisfaction Guaranteed.'

Lowe's story is one of success

(Continued from page 4)

entertainment, for the convenience of the customer. The customer gets the best of the self-service and express check out concepts, as well as our professionally trained sales and service staff."

One of the programs which has contributed to Lowe's great success is the Employee Stock Option Plan. "We are employee owned," Pugh notes. "We have our own profit-sharing plan, where employees can buy stock in the company. The profitability of the company directly affects our income through the stock."

Every Lowe's store is a separate entity, according to Pugh. "We are all independently managed, and responsible for the profitability of our stores," he says.

Pugh is assisted in his managerial duties by Dan Currie, assistant manager; and Dean Grant, retail sales manager.

While Lowe's has become more involved in retail sales in recent years, the business has remained primarily a building supplies company. "We're getting more and more involved now in installing what we sell," Pugh says. "This is one more move to accomodate our customers. For example, if a person is interested in installing a treated deck, carpet or other home-improvement item, we can help him choose it, help him with financing, and install the item, if the customer desires." Lowe's maintains a fleet of full-service delivery trucks for their customers' convenience, as well.

With building on the upswing and interest rates at their lowest level in many

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